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MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
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TONNAGE INDEX DECREASES IN SEPTEMBER

General freight carrier tonnage decreased 11.6 points in September 1989 from August, 1989 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 157.4(p) with 1967 = 100, the September tonnage is 6.9% below August's 169.0(2). The current month's volume is 21.1 points (11.8 percent) below the tonnage level in September 1988.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey decreased from 4.4 million tons in August to 4.2 million tons in September 1989. Actual tons decreased 5.2%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days decreased the September index level to 157.4(p).

From August, 1989, to September 1989, Industrial Production index decreased 0.1% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index decrease of 6.9%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final

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INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1989

1967 = 100

	SEPT 1989	AUG 1989	JULY 1989	SEPT 1988	Monthly % Change 8/89 / 7/89	Monthly % Change 9/89 / 8/89	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	157.4p	169.0r	158.6f	178.5f	+ 6.6	- 6.9	-11.8
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	166.1p	175.1r	150.1f	192.4f	+16.7	- 5.1	-13.7
Industrial Production Index[2,5] (total)	142.3	142.4	142.0	138.6	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 2.7
Manufacturers (total)	148.7	149.1	148.6	144.4	+ 0.3	- 0.3	+ 3.0
Non-durable	151.3	151.1	150.9	145.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 4.1
Durable	146.9	147.6	147.0	143.8	+ 0.4	- 0.5	+ 2.2
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	112.3	112.0	112.7	108.1	- 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 3.9
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	125.0	124.6	124.4	119.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 4.3
Tonnage Reported by 81 Carriers in SEPTEMBER 1989 (000 tons)	4,208	4,437	n.a.	4,691*	n.a.	- 5.2	-10.3

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index) 1982 = 100
4 - Goods and services 1982 high 1984 = 100
5 - 1977=100

* The SEPTEMBER 1988 tonnage figure is taken from current reports received from carriers (SEPTEMBER 1989) and bears no relationship to the tonnage indices shown above.

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX -- HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	144.0	140.8	138.6	154.4	175.3	177.6
February	141.8	138.2	141.4	159.3	171.9	169.2
March	144.2	139.0	139.5	160.6	175.2	166.7
April	145.5	137.9	144.4	157.5	175.5	172.2
May	144.7	138.5	143.9	159.3	179.6	172.7
June	145.1	134.8	144.0	163.0	184.7	172.5
July	143.5	132.0	152.2	161.7	172.7	158.6
August	145.2	135.0	153.4	164.0	178.6	169.0r
September	140.7	134.7	154.9	167.8	178.5	157.4p
October	143.4	135.8	155.1	170.2	178.3	
November	144.4	137.5	153.0	173.4	178.1	
December	143.3	135.8	154.6	174.6	178.3	

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1987	156.1	158.1	159.1	159.1	159.9	161.3	162.9	164.5	167.3	170.5	172.7	174.4
1988	173.9	174.1	174.2	176.8	179.9	179.0	178.7	176.6	178.5	178.2	178.2	178.0
1989	175.0	171.2	169.4	170.5	172.5	167.9	166.7r	161.7p				

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.